

Message Text

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22

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR (VEGIN, PYOTR)

SUBJECT: IOWA WRITERS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 160875

1. PAUL ENGLE, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, HAS AGAIN APPROACHED CU/EE RE GRANT FOR SOVIET WRITER PYOTR VEGIN TO ENABLE HIM TO PARTICIPATE FOR TWO MONTHS IN THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM. VEGIN, WITH WHOM ENGLE HAS BEEN CORRESPONDING FOR SEVERAL YEARS, CLAIMS HE CAN ARRIVE IN US IN LATE OCTOBER FOR TWO-MONTH STAY.

2. AS EMBASSY WILL RECALL (SEE REFTTEL) USSR UNION OF WRITERS HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET PARTICIPANT INTO THIS PROGRAM FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WE HAVE INFORMED IOWA THAT INCLUSION OF AN OFFICIAL SOVIET WRITER MIGHT JEOPARDIZE PARTICIPATION OF EE AND THEREFORE LEAD TO WITHDRAWAL OF CU
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FUNDING FOR EAST EUROPEAN WRITERS. ENGLE SAYS THAT VEGIN

IS FAVORABLY KNOWN TO PROFESSOR HARRY WEBER, OF IOWA'S DEPARTMENT OF RUSSIAN. VEGIO'S WORK IS KNOWN TO A POLISH AND HUNGARIAN WRITER CURRENTLY AT IOWA WHO REPORTEDLY HAVE TOLD ENGLE THEY WOULD HAVE NO HESITATION RECOMMENDING HIS PARTICIPATION. VEGIN ALSO REPORTEDLY RECOMMENDED BY ANDRE VOZNESENSKIY.

3. WE HAVE INFORMED ENGLE THAT HE SHOULD BE AWARE OF POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS BY SOVIETS AT LATER DATE TO PLACE OFFICIALLY SPONSORED WRITER IN THE PROGRAM, AND WE CAUTIONED THAT IOWA SHOULD REVIEW CAREFULLY ANY SOVIET NOMINEE OFFICIAL PROPOSED BY WRITERS UNION. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN BONA FIDES OF VEGIN AS A WRITER, HIS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY, PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING EXIT VISA AND SOVIET FUNDED TRAVEL TO AND FROM NEW YORK. IF ABOVE POSITIVE, WOULD EMBASSY RECOMMEND CU GRANT TO COVER COSTS IN US FOR TWO-MONTH STAY? VEGIN GIVES HIS HOME ADDRESS AS UL. OBRAZTSOVA 8A, KV. 36, MOSKVA 103055. (HOWEVER, HE ALSO LISTS ALTERNATE ADDRESS CARE OF FEDORENKO AT THE UNION OF WRITERS.) ROBINSON

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